

people—who are truly concerned with improving the welfare system by encouraging work, not abandoning people—are seeing through the charade. I urge my colleagues to vote for genuine, constructive reform by supporting the Deal substitute.

WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE REDUCES THE BUDGET DEFICIT

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk for a moment about some children in my district. I would like to talk about the 20 students in Mary Mills' 5th grade class at Oconee County Intermediate in Watkinsville, GA. When I was sworn in, the share of the national debt owed by Mary Mills' class was \$365,000. Since I have been here, a total of 80 days, they have incurred another \$2,500 of debt. Mr. Speaker, everyday we are spending away the future of those children. Our welfare reform package does significantly reduce the budget deficit. My colleagues on the other side continue to whine and wail that we are hurting children. Some of my more irresponsible colleagues continue to compare our welfare reforms to Nazi Germany. Mr. Speaker, someone has to speak up for the children of the next generation. I would ask my colleagues on the other side one simple question, how will we be able to do anything for our children when we bankrupt this Nation? We can do nothing worse than to keep our current system.

WELFARE AND NUTRITION REFORM

(Mrs. THURMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the real stories, not just the stories made up in people's minds, real people at home.

Here is a family, a husband, two teenage boys, one 11-year-old with cerebral palsy; husband works near minimum wage, Social Security for disabled child, receives food stamps. Says hardest time is last week of the month; never skips meals, but makes do with noodles and bouillon or grilled cheese sandwiches. She always worries that the kids are not getting enough protein and fresh vegetables. She feeds the kids first, then she eats, sometimes she does not eat. Delays bills to pay for food, had water shut off; a local program provided turkey and fixings last Christmas, also blankets and other things.

She says it hurts to hear that programs might be cut. She knows that some people sell their food stamps, and that makes others look bad.

She wants people to know that poor does not mean lazy. Her husband works, and she works hard taking care of her disabled son.

Things were better about 6 years ago, when her husband had a good job and she was working, too. Then her mother died, and they almost filed bankruptcy.

Kathleen says she never thought her family would be poor, but is thankful for the small things. "I always tell my kids that we are not as bad off as some people. They should feel fortunate to have a roof over their heads."

WELFARE PROGRAM

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the American people want us to get on with repairing our Nation's broken welfare system. They know, as we do, that what was intended to be a safety net has become a tragic snare for generations of our fellow citizens.

Today, Republicans will reform regulations on food stamps and commodity distribution. These are safety net programs that touch the lives of poor people every day.

Our food stamp proposals will target benefits to those who truly need them.

Our proposals will remove the humiliating piles of paperwork that now plague the poor in these programs. This means that resources now squandered on bureaucratic red tape will instead go to feed hungry Americans.

Mr. Speaker, our reforms reduce paperwork and regulations that weigh about this much to only about this much.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, our reforms will target our tax dollars where the American people want them—on the dinner tables of our Nation's needy children.

THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I went to Lloyd Street School in my hometown of Milwaukee on Monday. I had the opportunity to eat lunch with children who depend on the School Lunch Program.

Republicans howl at the suggestion that their bill to eliminate this critical program and block-grant child nutrition programs is cruel. But their actions are cruel to the children at Lloyd Street School and 13 million children across America who rely on child nutrition programs each day for a balanced meal.

Republicans argue their bill does not cut child nutrition programs, but according to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill cuts nutrition programs by as much as \$7 billion over the next 5 years. You cannot claim that you are spending more and spending \$7 billion less at the same time.

Republicans also argue that their program will cut bureaucrats and will not hurt kids. They are dead wrong. Any savings in costs would be retained

to pay for tax cuts and not sent back to help kids.

Mr. Speaker, today children in America are being asked to say no to many things, but it is dead wrong for Congress to ask them to say no to food.

SUPPORT THE TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT, RESTORE HIGHWAY TRUST FUNDS

(Mr. COOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the freshman class, we were elected to restore accountability and honesty to Congress. We have a unique opportunity, indeed an obligation, to fulfill our promise. In 1969, the Federal Highway Trust Fund became part of the unified Federal budget. Since that time, taxes paid by users of the system for the express purpose of improving and upgrading our roads and bridges, have been buried in the budget, masking the true size of the Federal deficit.

Prior to 1969, the Federal Highway Trust Fund was an off-budget program. The pay-as-you-go system allowed repairs to be made as the money was collected. Today, a surplus has amassed at the expense of much needed improvements.

H.R. 842, the Truth in Budgeting Act, seeks to restore the Federal Highway Trust Fund to its original off-budget status. This will put an end to the budget gimmick of hiding the deficit at the expense of motorists. I urge you to join me and nearly 140 cosponsors in supporting H.R. 842, a bill that answers the people's call to improve America's infrastructure, and to make Government fiscally responsible.

A promise is a promise, and it is time for us to live up to ours.

SUPPORT URGED FOR THE DEAL SUBSTITUTE

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as the only former mother in this Congress that was ever on welfare with children, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Deal substitute that we will be voting on today. I support Deal substitute because it offers welfare recipients a fair deal.

As long as there are jobs and recipients are willing to work and play by the rules, the Deal bill will invest up front in education, job training, and child care to ensure that recipients get into jobs and off welfare permanently.

Unlike the Republican bill that does not invest in work and punishes children, the Deal welfare substitute protects children. It also guarantees help if the State experiences a recession or a national disaster, times when the needs are greatest.